

(Security Information)

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Cottbus

50X1-HUM

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 11 February 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 10 December 1951, the Alvensleben Kaserne on the south side of the Karl Liebknechtstrasse, Cottbus (N 52/A 57), quartered about 1,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. No training activity or vehicular traffic was noticed.
2. On 10 December, the Funker Kaserne on the east side of Pappel Allee was occupied by about 500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. No particular training activity or vehicular traffic was noticed. (1)
3. On 10 December, the Hermann Loens Kaserne seemed to be occupied to capacity. Troops observed wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. An officer and 12 men were seen emplacing a 20-mm AA gun. Two heavy tanks, including tank [redacted] were parked in front of a garage. More tanks were seen between two garages. An officer and 2 soldiers were seen practicing 50X1-HUM with a range finder, about one meter in length, outside the billeting area.

4. On 10 December, the Sachsendorff Kaserne on the north side of Jahnstrasse was occupied by about 2,500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. About 250 troops were engaged in a review while an 18-piece band played. Vehicles [redacted] were identified at the installation. (3)

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5. On 10 December, the Dissenchen Kaserne quartered an undetermined number of troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Two NCOs with two 76.2-mm artillery pieces were seen in the training area east of the road to Merzdorf. A stock record for motor oil received and issued [redacted]

Date	Received (liters)	Issued (liters)	On hand (liters)
11 June 1950	3	2	65
11 June 1950	3	—	68
11 June 1950	—	13	69

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14 June 1950	-	40	29	
14 June 1950	-	1	28	
15 to 23 June 1950	9	-	37	
23 June 1950	-	30	7	
23 and 24 June 1950	364	-	371	
24 June 1950	-	25	396	
24 June 1950	-	51	292	
27 June 1950	-	4	268	
27 June 1950	-	4	264	
27 June to 7 July 1950	-	107	177	
7 July 1950	-	20	157	
7 July 1950	-	3	154	
12 July 1950	540	-	654	
12 July 1950	-	18	676	
13 July 1950	-	2	674	
13 to 18 July 1950	-	113	561	50X1-HUM
20 July 1950	5	-	566	□ (4)

6. On 28 December, gate guards wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia were seen in front of the Alvensleben Kaserne. A T-34/85 tank, followed by truck [ ] was seen entering the billeting area. About 20 soldiers practiced with a 57-mm AA gun on Viehmarkt. Twelve soldiers with practice targets left the installation on truck [ ]. 50X1-HUM
7. Between 28 December 1951 and 15 January 1952, only sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia were noticed at the Funker Kaserne. The previously reported radio truck was still parked at the barracks gate. No vehicular traffic was noticed throughout the period of observation. (1) 50X1-HUM
8. On 15 January 1952, gate guards wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were seen at the Hermann Loens Kaserne. Four T-34/85 tanks, including one standing on a lifting platform, were seen in front of the garages. (2)
9. Trucks [ ] each towing a 122-mm howitzer entered the Dissenchen Kaserne on 15 January, coming from the training area at Merzdorf. Fresh imprints of tank treads led to the billeting area. A local resident said that four tanks were stationed at the installation. (4) 50X1-HUM
10. On 15 January, the easternmost building of the Hermann Loens Kaserne was occupied by about 250 officers, including some with tank and artillery insignia.

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Some infantry majors and captains in addition to some administrative officers who came from the officers' billets on Fontaneplatz were also seen during the days preceding 15 January. Trucks [redacted]

[redacted] each carrying about 20 officers ranking from lieutenant up to and including captain, left the installation every morning in the direction of Spremberg and returned to it toward evening. Almost daily, 50X1-HUM three platoons of 30 unarmed soldiers each were seen receiving close-order drill in the billeting area. Fourteen medical officers arrived in the installation in several sedans on 2 January and were received by a medical officer stationed in the Hermann Loens Kaserne. [redacted]

the commanding officer of the troops in the installation was a colonel who wore tank insignia and was said to hold the position of division commander. A raised portion of the ground in the southern section of the billeting area indicated that there was an underground installation because entrances led to it from the north and stove pipes emitting smoke projected from the top. 50X1-HUM Planking was hauled to the place by two trucks on 4 January and carried underground. One of the trucks had [redacted] from 20 to 30 tanks were sheltered in this underground structure. Vehicles regularly observed at the Hermann Loens Kaserne [redacted]

[redacted] Vehicles seen there sporadically [redacted]

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## Comments.

- (1) The artillery insignia mentioned in paragraph 1 possibly confirms the 692d How Arty Regt of the 9th Mecz Div, the bulk of which is carried in the Alvonsleben Kaserne. The observation of soldiers practicing with AA guns on Viehmarkt adjoining the installation to the west indicates that components of the division's 1719th AAA Regt may be stationed there. The regiment has not been confirmed in the Funker Kaserne since the spring of 1951; nor is the information on the Funker Kaserne indicative of the presence of the AAA regiment. Truck [redacted] mentioned in paragraph 6 of the present report, belongs to the 616th Mort Regt which has not been confirmed in its previous quarters in the Landesirrenanstalt (insane asylum) at Luebben since August 1951. It is therefore possible that a hitherto unnoticed reshuffling of units took place in the billeting area of the 9th Mecz Div upon the return of the units from the Weisswasser troop training grounds. [redacted]

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- (2) The information [redacted] confirms previous estimates regarding the occupation of the Hermann Loens Kaserne. [redacted] An officer training course seems to have been conducted during the period covered by the present report. The alleged sheltering of tanks in underground garages is reported from the Soviet Zone of Germany for the first time and requires confirmation. Most of the vehicles observed in the installation belong to components of the 9th Mecz Div. It is usual at the location of a division headquarters.

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- (3) The information on the Sachsendorff Kaserne furnishes no new data. The vehicles observed there belong to the 91st Tank Regt in Luebben. [redacted]

- (4) The 67.2-mm artillery pieces and the few tanks in the Dissenchen Kaserne only vaguely confirm the 71st Mecz Regt which is carried there. The trucks towing 122-mm howitzers which, according to paragraph 9, moved into the installation, belong to the 692d How Arty Regt, [redacted] was probably misidentified. The Dissenchen Kaserne possibly contains a major fuel depot or tank repair shop. The stock record is believed to belong to the fuel supply point of the 9th Mecz Div [redacted] appears monthly as the unit supplying major quantities of motor oil. The supply point may be located in the Dissenchen Kaserne or the Alvonsleben Kaserne. [redacted]

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